



Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Mission Statement & Environmental Policy

Mission Statement

The Department of Environmental Quality protects and enhances Virginia's environment, and promotes the health and well being of the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Environmental Policy

Commitments: DEQ, in its operations and activities, will demonstrate leadership and environmental stewardship through an EMS that:

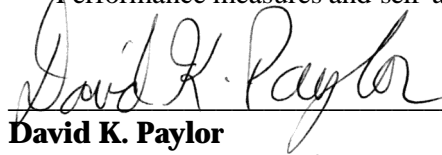
- Ensures DEQ's compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations, and with other requirements to which the organization subscribes;
- Identifies and implements techniques and environmentally sound practices that emphasize the environmental management hierarchy of pollution prevention (source reduction), reuse, recycling, treatment, and environmentally safe disposal;
- Promotes continual improvement in DEQ's EMS practice and procedures leading to improved environmental performance;
- Openly communicates to all employees and the public, DEQ's EMS policy, our identified environmental aspects, objectives and targets and programs to achieve them, and the results of these efforts;
- Provides human, financial and technical resources appropriate to the active management and maintenance of the EMS; and
- Encourages all employees, to the best of their abilities, to be accountable for implementing, maintaining, and upholding this policy.

Partnerships: DEQ will encourage environmental stewardship and foster improved environmental collaboration with stakeholders by:

- Exchanging mutually beneficial knowledge with, and encouraging open communication among, all partners including the regulated and non-regulated communities, the general public and environmental associations, regional and national agencies and EMS organizations, DEQ employees, and other State agencies; and
- Encouraging and recognizing innovative, sustainable environmental ideas and solutions.

Performance: To achieve the goals and objectives of the EMS, and to promote continual improvement, DEQ will develop and implement an environmental management system that includes:

- A direct link to DEQ's strategic planning and budgeting process;
- Appropriate procedures and training; and
- Performance measures and self-assessment through annual program reviews.



David K. Paylor

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

2/5/2007
Date



This Environmental Policy shall be communicated to all employees by the EMS Manager and maintained on DEQ's website by the Public Affairs Manager.